

REMARKS

Applicants propose amending the application as previously set forth. As represented at the Hearing of December 13, 2006, dependent claims 44 through 47 are to be canceled since they are, in effect, "artifacts" of earlier prosecution, and their limitations had already been incorporated into independent claims 40 and 42 from which they directly or indirectly depended.

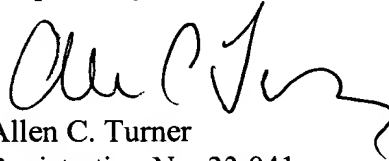
Pursuant to 37 CFR § 41.33(b), an amendment filed after the date of filing an appeal brief may be admitted to cancel claims, where such cancellation does not affect the scope of any other pending claim in the proceeding, which would appear to be the case here since the claims to be canceled are all dependent claims.

In the event the amendment canceling these claims is not entered, applicants will do so, as appropriate, after the decision of the Board.

As also represented at the Hearing, applicants have already moved to correct the priority claim in the instant application. This correction of the priority claim should have no affect on the appeal.

If questions remain after consideration of the foregoing, the Office is kindly requested to contact applicants' attorney at the address or telephone number given herein.

Respectfully submitted,



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